

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-15 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 DRC-01 CCO-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 /154 W
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P R 091930Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 052

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7921

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI COMMENTATORS ON SECURITY VERSUS PEACEFOR ISRAEL

1. AS EMBASSY'S PRESS CABLE TODAY SUGGESTS, ISRAELI MEDIA ARE AIRING TWO INTERPRETATIONS OF POLITICO-MILITARY SITUATION FACING ISRAEL: (A) ISRAEL, HAVING FOREGONE PREEMPTION AND SUFFERED ATTACK, IS ENTITLED AND OBLIGED TO DESTROY EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN WAR MACHINES, SO THAT ANOTHER SUCH ATTACK WILL NOT RECUR; AND (B) ISRAEL FACES A DILEMMA, IN THAT THE HARDER ISRAEL DEFEATS EGYPT AND SYRIA, THE MORE SECURE ISRAEL'S SITUATION WILL BE OVER SHORT TERM, BUT THE SLIMMER THE CHANCES WILL BE OF INDUCING ARABS TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS. VERSION (A) CERTAINLY PREDOMINATES
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IN MEDIA, BUT VERSION (B), DESPITE TENSIONS

OF WAR, IS GETTING A HEARING.

2. CLEAREST EXPOSITION OF VERSION (B) IS BY HAARETZ COLUMNIST SALPETER. HE ASKS WHAT POLITICAL RESULT OF WAR WILL BE, NOTING THAT ISRAEL SO FAR HAS DECLARED ONLY MILITARY AIMS: EXPULSION OF INVADERS AND HEAVY BLOW TO ARMED FORCES OF INVADING STATES. HE COMMENTS THAT IF ISRAEL DOES NOT TRANSLATE MILITARY VICTORY INTO POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENT, ARABS MAY AGAIN CONVINCE THEMSELVES THAT THEY WERE NOT REALLY DEFEATED AND MAY TRY ONCE AGAIN TO OVERCOME ISRAEL.

3. SALPETER CONTINUES ISRAEL FACES DILEMMA; HARDER ISRAEL HITS ENEMY, MORE PEOPLE WHO GET KILLED, GREATER THE DESTRUCTION-- THE MORE TIME ENEMY WILL NEED TO REHABILITATE HIS MILITARY STRENGTH. BUT POLITICALLY, SUCH RESOUNDING DEFEAT WILL MAKE IT HARDER FOR ARAB GOVERNMENTS TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL. HE ADDS THAT MILITARY VICTORY COULD SERVE AS POLITICAL INSTRUMENT IF MILITARY AIMS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY POLITICAL AIMS, BUT GOI HAS MADE CLEAR IT HAS NO POLITICAL AIMS IN THIS WAR.

4. SALPETER ASSUMES ARABS LAUNCHED WAR IN HOPES MAJOR POWERS WOULD INTERVENE POLITICALLY AND BREAK DEADLOCK BY COMPELLING ISRAEL TO GIVE PRE-NEGOTIATION COMMITMENT ON WITHDRAWAL TO PRE-JUNE 1967 LINES. DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SUCH COMMITMENT MIGHT COME BEFORE UNSC, WHEREAS ISRAEL WOULD LIKE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS, FOR WHICH THERE NO CHANCE, THIS BEING EXACT OPPOSITE OF WHAT ARABS WANT. BOTH US AND USSR MAY END UP USING VETO.

5. SALPETER CONCLUDES OUTLOOK IS NOT GOOD. WHAT EMERGES AS IMPORTANT ARE DIMENSIONS OF MILITARY DEFEAT WHICH ISRAEL COULD INFLICT ON EGYPT AND SYRIA; MILITARY RESULTS ARE LIKELY TO BE, ONCE AGAIN, MAIN FRUIT OF AN ISRAELI VICTORY. KEATING

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